

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, EFIN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 13 - REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE TNC COMMISSION INDICATED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT
FOR THE WORK PROGRAM, SOME RESERVATIONS (WEO AND SOVIET BLOC)
ABOUT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND WEO CONCERN ABOUT THE
PROPOSED INFORMATION GATHERING ACTIVITIES. G-77 EMPHASIS
REMAINS ON THE FORMULATION OF A MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GENERAL DISCUSSION IN THE
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (JULY 27-28) ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION (3/TUIW).

3. ALL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE
RESULTS OF THE SECOND SESSIN OF THE COMMISSION AND INDICATED
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SUPPORT FOR THE WORK PROGRAM AGREED TO THERE. IN THIS

CONNECTION, G-77 REPS PLACED MAJOR EMPHASIS ON WORK LEADING TO THE FORMULATION OF A LEGALLY BINDING CODE AND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM. SEVERAL ARGUED THAT THE CODE SHOULD APPLY ONLY TO TNCs AND NOT TO GOVERNMENTS. ON THE WEO SIDE, UK, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA QUESTIONED THE INCLUSION IN THE PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE INFORMATION GATHERING ACTIVITY, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPANY PROFILES, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE DECISION AT THE SECOND SESSION WAS FOR THE CENTRE FIRST TO UNDERTAKE A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND NEEDED.

4. GENERAL SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO WORK ON A CODE OF CONDUCT AND MOST SPEAKERS ARGUED THAT IT SHOULD BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE. THE UK AND THE US CALLED FOR A FLEXIBLE MEETING SCHEDULE TO PERMIT SUFFICIENT TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEVANT MATERIALS AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG GOVERNMENTS. SEVERAL LDCs NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS MADE IN ESTABLISHING JOINT PROGRAMS WITH THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS.

5. ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE WAS THE REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE CENTRE (E/5782/ADD. 1). MOST WEOS (INCLUDING THE US) AND SOVIET BLOC SPOKESMAN RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS UNTIL MORE DETAILED CONSIDERATION AT THE 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6. IN CLOSING THE DISCUSSION, TNC CENTRE DIRECTOR SAHLGRAN REPORTED THAT A JOINT PROGRAM HAD JUST BEEN CONCLUDED WITH ECA AND THAT A SIMILAR UNIT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITH ECWA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. RESPONDING TO THE CRITICISMS CONCERNING THE CENTRE'S PROPOSED INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES, SAHLGREN SAID THAT ONLY THE COLLECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WAS CONTINGENT ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THAT THE CENTRE

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WAS AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE COLLECTION OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION. TO SUPPORT HIS PROPOSAL FOR COMPUTER SERVICES, HE SAID THAT THE CENTRE WOULD BE COLLECTING INFORMATION ON (A) MICRO ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON TNCs, (B) NATIONAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS, (C) EXTRACTS OR SUMMARIES OF CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS, AND (D) BIBLIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL AND DOCUMENTATION. FINALLY SAHLGREN SAID THAT HE WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTING THE 15

EXPERTS ("PERSONS OF PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE") TO WORK WITH
THE CENTRE AND WOULD SHORTLY BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH
MEMBER COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO SUBMITTING THE NAMES OF
THE CANDIDATES TO A RESUMED SECOND SESSION OF THE NTC
IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR. CATTO

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